Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

ne
2F

Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

VOLUME 68 NUMBER 5

DRY EDIBLE PEAS (Page 55)

COTTON (Page 59)

AGR'L. EXPORTS (Page 62)

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
★ FEB 10 1954 ★
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

FEBRUARY 1, 1954

CONTENTS

PAGE

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

World Cotton Production Revised Upward.................... 59
Spain's Cotton Supplies Improve.................... 74
Indian Cloth Exports.................... 75
U.K. Cotton Imports and Consumption Rising.................... 76
Indian Cotton Import Licensing Policy.................... 76
Netherlands Cotton Imports Improve.................... 77
Cotton in Brazilian-Bolivian Trade Agreement.................... 77

FATS, OILSEEDS AND OILS

Brazil's Lard Imports Up Sharply.................... 57
Pakistan Reports Increases in Flaxseed, Sesame Acreages..... 58

FOREIGN TRADE

Upward Trend in U.S. Agricultural Exports Continues in November, 1953.................... 62

FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND NUTS

Dry Edible Peas Production Increased in 1953-54.................... 55

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

U.S. Rice Exports.................... 69
Japan's Reduced Rice Crop Raises Import Requirements........ 71

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

Australian Wool Market Notes.................... 66
Uruguay Revises Exchange Rate for Wool Tops.................... 66
London Wool Auction Prices Down.................... 67
U.S. Imports of Wool Tops Down.................... 68
Canadian Hog Numbers Below a Year Ago.................... 67

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

LATE NEWS

Imports of cotton into the United States during November amounted to 8,510 bales (of 500 pounds gross). The total of 45,625 bales for August-November 1953 includes 17,190 from Egypt, 10,107 from Mexico, 7,409 from India, 4,393 from Peru, 2,799 from Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, 2,290 from Brazil, and 1,437 from Pakistan.

- - - -

Imports of cotton linters into the United States in November amounted to 12,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross), making a total of 95,000 for August-November. The principal sources included in the latter figure are Mexico 51,000 bales, Brazil 24,000, the Soviet Union 10,000, and Paraguay 3,000.

- - - -

Exports of cotton linters (mostly chemical grades) from the United States in November amounted to 19,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross), making an August-November total of 38,000 bales. The latter figure includes 23,000 bales to Western Germany, 7,000 to Japan, 5,000 to Canada, 2,000 to the Netherlands, and 2,000 to the United Kingdom.

- - - -

Transshipments of Mexican cotton through United States ports (excludes movement to Canada by railroad but includes cotton linters, waste and hull fibers) amounted to 87,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) in October. The August-October 1953 total of 207,000 bales includes 52,000 to Japan, 33,000 to Belgium, 32,000 to Western Germany, United Kingdom 26,000, Spain 20,000, the Netherlands 14,000, Switzerland 12,000, Sweden 6,000, Finland 2,000, Norway 2,000, and Colombia 2,000.

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to assist the foreign marketing of U. S. farm products by keeping the nation's agricultural interests informed of current crop and livestock developments abroad, foreign trends in production, prices, supplies and consumption of farm products, and other factors affecting world agricultural trade. Circulation is free to persons in the U.S. needing the information it contains.

Foreign Crops and Markets is distributed only upon a request basis. Should you find you have no need for this publication, please tear off the addressograph imprint with your name and address on the enclosing envelope, pencil "drop" upon it, and send it to the Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 5922, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

WORLD DRY EDIBLE PEA PRODUCTION INCREASED IN 1953-54

Production of dry edible peas in the 1953-54 season in 31 selected countries is estimated at 16.2 million bags, 6 percent larger than last year and 3 percent larger than the prewar 1935-39 average. This preliminary estimate showed production 17 percent smaller than the postwar 1945-49 average. As indicated by yields per acre in the various countries, the 1953-54 season was favorable for pea production in the United States, in about half the reporting countries of Western Europe and in Eastern Europe. It was not so favorable in Canada, the principal countries of Western Europe, and in the Far East. It is expected that the harvest soon to be completed in New Zealand will be less than in the previous season.

North America: The increased production of almost 1 million bags in 1953 in North America, where the United States, Mexico and Canada are the only reporting producers, was largely the result of increased acreage in both the United States and Canada and a slight increase in yields per acre in the United States. Yields per acre were down slightly in Canada. Production in the United States was estimated at 3.4 million bags in 1953 or 28 percent larger than the previous year, which was about at the prewar average. The 1953 production in Canada, estimated at 725,000 bags, was 36 percent larger than in 1952 but 10 percent below the prewar average. The 1953 acreage in peas in the United States and Canada was 24 and 40 percent, respectively, above the previous year.

Western Europe: The total 1953 production in 12 reporting countries of Western Europe, estimated at 7 million bags, was smaller than last year by 300,000 bags or 5 percent. This reduction resulted largely from a moderate decrease in acreage and a considerable decrease in yields per acre in the United Kingdom, the largest pea-producing country in Western Europe.

The second largest pea-producing country, the Netherlands, maintained production in 1953 at about the 1952 level because of increased acreage and in spite of reduced yields per acre.

Yugoslavia, France, Germany and Norway all reported considerably higher yields than the previous year and larger production. The United Kingdom and the Netherlands reported reduction in yields of 20 percent. Yugoslavia and Norway, on the other hand, reported increases in yields per acre as much as 30 percent above the previous year.

Eastern Europe: Information from countries in Eastern Europe is limited, but reporting countries surrounding the area reported good-to-excellent crop conditions in 1953. Yugoslavia and Italy on the south and Germany and France on the west all reported larger production and yields than last year, indicating that for the most part, Eastern Europe also enjoyed favorable producing conditions for peas in 1953. The production in 1953 is therefore estimated at 2.6 million bags as compared with 2.1 in the previous season when the area suffered rather severe drought.

PEAS: Acreage, yield and production in specified countries, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1952-53

Continent and country	Acreage				Yield per acre				Production			
	Average				Average				Average			
	1935-39	1945-49	1952	1953 1/	1935-39	1945-49	1952	1953 1/	1935-39	1945-49	1952	1953 1/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
NORTH AMERICA												
Canada	85	98	43	60	948	967	1,240	1,208	806	948	533	725
Mexico	12	18	18	18	342	467	550	556	41	84	99	100
United States	223	435	211	262	1,152	1,185	1,237	1,279	2,570	5,154	2,610	3,350
Total	320	551	272	340	1,068	1,123	1,192	1,228	3,417	6,186	3,242	4,175
EUROPE												
Austria	12	7	5	5	1,217	929	1,000	1,000	146	65	50	50
Belgium-Luxemburg	19	21	11	17	2,163	1,890	2,800	2,182	411	397	308	371
Finland	30	26	22	19	1,297	1,054	1,455	1,389	389	274	320	264
France	50	72	51	53	1,410	1,318	1,335	1,492	705	949	681	791
Germany, Western Zone	33	75	21	21	1,536	1,131	1,371	1,571	507	848	288	330
Italy	59	49	46	45	678	508	557	578	400	249	256	260
Netherlands	91	64	61	76	2,569	1,786	3,205	2,567	2,338	1,143	1,955	1,951
Norway	2	2	1	1	1,950	1,700	1,500	2,000	39	34	15	20
Spain	134	116	98	100	575	384	517	450	771	446	507	450
Sweden	34	38	28	35	1,329	1,203	1,379	1,406	452	457	386	492
United Kingdom	20	164	123	116	1,680	955	1,949	1,552	336	2,567	2,397	1,800
Yugoslavia	13	21	25	25	1,062	1,038	600	800	138	218	150	200
Total above	497	655	492	513	1,334	1,167	1,486	1,360	6,632	7,647	7,313	6,979
Total other Europe	259	377	355	355	1,117	833	597	723	2,894	3,140	2,120	2,565
Total Europe	756	1,032	847	868	1,260	1,045	1,114	1,200	9,526	10,787	9,433	9,544
ASIA												
Turkey	7	4	3	3	535	440	1,000	1,000	36	16	30	30
Japan	101	14	34	25	889	907	1,085	880	898	127	369	220
South Korea	3	2	2	2	669	400	412	500	20	8	8	10
Total	111	20	39	30	859	755	1,044	867	954	151	407	260
SOUTH AMERICA												
Argentina	25	41	50	50	800	961	500	500	200	394	250	250
Chile	71	46	54	55	706	678	533	545	501	312	288	300
Uruguay	2	2	2	2	500	550	500	500	10	11	10	10
Total	98	89	106	107	726	806	517	523	711	717	548	560
AFRICA												
Algeria	18	23	23	25	544	400	500	480	98	92	115	120
French Morocco	79	162	144	122	533	507	597	775	421	822	860	945
Union of South Africa	9	19	15	15	1,351	616	667	667	119	117	100	100
Total	106	204	182	162	602	505	591	719	638	1,031	1,075	1,165
OCEANIA												
Australia	29	12	15	15	776	1,025	1,000	833	225	123	150	125
New Zealand	18	45	30	30	1,578	1,500	1,600	1,333	284	675	480	400
Total	47	57	45	45	1,083	1,400	1,400	1,167	509	798	630	525
TOTAL SPECIFIED COUNTRIES	1,438	1,953	1,491	1,552	1,096	1,007	1,029	1,046	15,755	19,670	15,335	16,229

1/ Preliminary.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of the U.S. Foreign Service Officers, results of office research and other information. Years refer to year of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere and includes the harvest immediately following in the Southern Hemisphere. Averages are for years stated or for the nearest comparable period. Yields have been calculated on the basis of unrounded estimates of acreage for countries of small production.

Other Areas: The above-mentioned areas, North America and Western Europe, produced in 1953 about 85 percent of the total dry edible pea crops estimated from the 31 countries. The largest single producing country, China, which usually produces 4 times as many peas as the 31 selected countries combined, is excluded from the foregoing estimates because of lack of reliable data and because adding an estimate for China would bias the total. The 1953 crop year in China has been reported unfavorable for most crops. Japan, in this area, reported 1953 production at only 220,000 bags compared with 369,000 in the previous year and almost 900,000 bags in the immediate prewar period. Acreage was down in Japan from 34,000 acres to 25,000 acres and yields were 880 pounds per acre compared with almost 1,100 the previous year.

Estimates of production in the remainder of the 31 countries are more in the nature of forecasts as many of these countries are in the Southern Hemisphere. The harvest there has not yet been completed. -By Orval E. Goodsell, based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

BRAZIL'S LARD IMPORTS UP SHARPLY

Brazil's lard imports, insignificant in recent years, rose sharply to 11,152 short tons in the first half of 1953, reports Paul Ferree, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Rio de Janeiro. While production of lard has been increasing, consumption has risen at a more rapid rate. Consequently, lard is in relatively short supply, particularly in the Federal District, and is selling at prices above the wholesale and retail levels that the Government has specified. In order to satisfy the country's needs and to lower prices, Brazil may continue to import lard in sizable quantities. Of the January-June 1953 lard imports, 5,098 tons or 46 percent came from the United States. The remaining volume was supplied by Argentina. In 1952, Brazil imported 1,102 tons of lard, all from Argentina, and none in 1951.

Production of lard has shown a steady increase in recent years, although the yield per animal slaughtered appears to have declined. This is due to the fact that more fat is being sold as meat rather than rendered into lard. This situation may reverse to some extent now that lard is in good demand. Commercial lard output in 1953 is reported at 93,700 tons compared to 90,200 tons in 1952 and 69,500 tons in 1950.

In the Federal District, the wholesale price of lard in mid-January was about 1,600 cruzeiros per case of 3 cans of 20 kilograms (1 Kilogram = 2.2046 pounds) each, or 28 percent more than the COFAP's (Federal Price and Supply Commission) ceiling. COFAP recently distributed 1,500 cases of lard from Rio Grande do Sul at the official price of 1,250 cruzeiros per case and indicated it may import lard from the Netherlands in order to keep prices in line. As a Government agency, COFAP can import lard at the preferential official rate of exchange of 18.72 cruzeiros per dollar plus a premium believed to be 7 cruzeiros. Since the official ceiling price of lard is much above world prices COFAP would realize substantial profits from such a transaction.

Inedible or industrial tallow production in Brazil is largely by small plants whose main produce is dried meat and hides. The more recently established packing industry produces a moderate amount of edible tallow with only a little industrial tallow as a by-product. The available supply of edible tallow seems to be decreasing as more fat is being left on the salable beef cuts. Production of inedible and edible tallow in 1953 is reported at 37,300 and 4,600 tons, respectively, or somewhat below the 39,000 and 5,300 tons produced in 1952. No tallow was imported in the first half of 1953, and only minor quantities in 1952 and 1951.

Tallow is presently enjoying a good market in Brazil but it is not in short supply and large imports are not likely to be needed. Good grade tallow for industrial use recently sold in Rio de Janeiro for 20 cruzeiros per kilogram. Tallow is not one of the commodities being regulated by COFAP.

With the exception of cottonseed and peanuts, no change was reported for Brazil's 1953 production of vegetable oilseeds from the data published in Foreign Crops and Markets of November 9, 1953, page 356. Cottonseed production is now given at 794,000 tons, somewhat above the previous 1953 figure of 720,970 tons but substantially less than the 1,038,060 tons reported for 1952. Peanut production also was revised upward to 165,000 tons, in the shell, against the previously reported 1953 figure of 153,110 tons and 159,830 tons in 1952.

PAKISTAN REPORTS INCREASE IN FLAXSEED, SESAME ACREAGES

The first forecast of the area under flaxseed in Pakistan for 1953-54 is 72,000 acres as against 66,000 acres reported in the first forecast of the previous year, reports Henry W. Spielman, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Karachi. The increase of 9 percent for the current planting is attributed to favorable weather. Sowing commenced on normal dates and the condition of the crop is satisfactory. The acreage reported in the final forecast of 1952-53 was 71,000 acres from which 480,000 bushels of flaxseed were produced.

The second forecast of the area under sesame for 1953-54 is 208,000 acres against 207,000 acres reported in the corresponding forecast of the preceding year. The condition of the crop is reported as normal. The acreage reported in the final forecast of 1952-53 was 206,000 acres from which 40,300 short tons of sesame were produced.

WORLD COTTON PRODUCTION REVISED UPWARD

World cotton production in 1953-54 is now estimated at 36.8 million bales (of 500 pounds gross) the second highest on record and exceeded only by the 1937-38 crop of 39.0 million bales. The current estimate is about 3 percent or approximately 1.0 million bales higher than those for each of the past 2 years. Since the issuance of the preliminary 1953-54 world estimate in October, higher production aggregating 3.5 percent has been reported in the important producing countries of the United States, India, Soviet Union, and Mexico.

World acreage data (lacking for many countries) indicate a decline in cotton acreage from about 84.6 million acres in 1951-52 to 81.9 million in 1952-53 and a further decline to 80.2 million in 1953-54. This decline without a comparable decrease in production is attributed mainly to reductions in the United States and South Brazil. Production in the United States has increased because of higher yields. In the past year, significant decreases in cotton acreage took place also in Egypt, Turkey, Pakistan, and Syria.

The 1953-54 December production estimate of 16,437,000 bales for the United States is 841,000 bales higher than the October estimate included in the last report on world production. The increased production was due primarily to beneficial late rains that broke a prolonged drought in Texas and the mid-South States, followed by unusually favorable weather during the harvest months.

Foreign production as a whole is lower by nearly 300,000 bales from 20.6 million in 1952-53 to 20.3 million in 1953-54. Incomplete information from Communist countries indicate a probable increase of nearly 400,000 bales to 7.25 million. In the non-Communist foreign cotton areas production as a whole declined by about 600,000 bales to 13.1 million in 1953-54.

Decreases in foreign production were sharpest in Egypt, Pakistan, and Syria where cotton acreage was restricted by law in favor of food production programs and in South Brazil where acreage was reduced because of a lack of price guarantees at the time cotton was planted and the existence of more attractive prices for alternative crops. A decrease of nearly 50,000 bales or 7 percent in production in Turkey resulted from a voluntary shift by farmers to cultivation of other commodities.

The only significant increases in foreign production in 1953-54 were in India, the Soviet Union, and China. The increase in India was due partly to favorable weather but mainly to moderation of restrictive regulations and a revival of cotton planting following about 10 years of restriction of cotton cultivation in favor of food crops. Rising mill consumption and the difficulties arising from the necessity for meeting mill requirements with heavy imports of cotton in the past 3 years probably were among the factors responsible for moderation of the restrictions.

COTTON: Acreage and production in specified areas, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1951-53 1/

Continent and country	Acreage					Production 2/				
	Average					Average				
	1935-39	1945-49	1951	1952 3/	1953 3/	1935-39	1945-49	1951	1952 3/	1953 3/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
NORTH AMERICA										
El Salvador	9	35	72	71	54	5	21	42	45	31
Guatemala	-	8	20	22	26	2	5	11	16	17
Mexico	725	1,034	2,183	1,937	1,900	334	577	1,325	1,250	1,200
Nicaragua	9	11	86	75	100	5	7	47	55	80
United States	27,788	21,258	26,922	25,841	24,434	13,149	12,104	15,149	15,139	16,437
British West Indies	20	12	-	-	-	5	4	5	-	-
Haiti	-	37	41	40	40	22	10	7	7	7
Total 4/	28,642	22,403	29,364	28,027	26,592	13,523	12,730	16,595	16,526	17,786
EUROPE										
Bulgaria 5/	85	82	-	-	-	35	20	-	-	-
Greece	168	111	213	203	211	76	52	130	111	147
Italy	56	40	72	118	75	21	11	25	32	25
Rumania 5/	8	102	-	-	-	2	-	18	-	-
Spain	46	130	110	150	200	10	18	30	65	70
Yugoslavia	8	-	39	18	-	3	-	5	3	6
Total 4/	372	511	607	689	716	147	127	228	256	293
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	5,087	3,697	-	-	-	3,430	2,328	-	-	-
ASIA										
Aden	-	-	10	11	23	-	-	6	9	20
Cyprus	11	5	11	14	-	3	1	2	3	-
Iran	453	239	371	445	500	171	85	124	165	211
Iraq	53	22	110	125	51	11	5	37	13	17
Syria	85	59	537	457	371	28	32	225	211	230
Turkey	667	645	1,586	1,668	1,473	249	268	600	690	643
Afghanistan	-	-	-	-	-	49	16	53	62	69
Burma	428	178	300	360	-	97	32	75	90	84
China (incl. Manchuria)	7,038	5,831	10,100	9,350	-	2,855	1,939	3,000	2,840	-
French Indochina	36	-	-	-	-	6	2	4	-	-
India	6/ 24,204	11,306	16,198	15,678	17,000	6/ 5,348	2,304	3,150	2,975	3,550
Korea 7/	564	344	361	-	-	198	89	100	65	-
Indonesia	27	-	-	-	-	9	4	-	-	-
Pakistan	6/	2,965	3,244	3,430	3,300	6/	1,024	1,340	1,500	1,265
Philippine Islands	5	5	3	1	1	1	1	1	8/	8/
Thailand	16	84	77	97	-	7	26	28	32	-
Total 4/	33,805	21,827	33,049	32,040	33,079	9,038	5,835	8,760	8,676	9,214

SOUTH AMERICA										
Argentina	770	962	1,385	1,315	-	289	427	580	550	-
Brazil	5,562	4,520	5,100	4,500	-	1,956	1,352	1,950	1,600	1,300
Colombia	98	-	136	200	-	23	27	47	78	-
Ecuador	40	41	35	31	-	13	11	10	10	12
Paraguay	111	123	175	130	140	40	47	73	53	55
Peru	428	345	465	482	519	379	308	429	444	421
Venezuela	50	-	42	35	39	11	11	17	12	13
Total 4/	7,060	6,177	7,341	6,696	6,237	2,711	2,184	3,107	2,748	2,427
AFRICA AND OCEANIA										
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	439	371	571	615	632	248	246	285	385	400
Belgian Congo	874	745	775	-	-	172	195	218	225	-
Kenya	-	51	68	56	-	13	6	13	7	-
Nyasaland	84	-	-	-	-	12	8	10	13	12
Tanganyika	-	-	-	-	-	50	38	39	65	38
Uganda	1,477	1,324	1,518	1,512	1,525	281	227	316	267	333
Canary Islands	-	2	5	7	-	-	1	4	6	-
Egypt	1,821	1,367	2,055	2,042	1,375	1,893	1,456	1,666	2,047	1,350
French Equatorial Africa	390	-	-	-	-	41	104	145	130	125
French North Africa	1	5	33	35	-	8/	2	14	17	13
French West Africa	-	-	-	-	-	28	14	35	35	30
Mozambique	-	557	680	620	-	9/ 33	104	140	162	-
Nigeria	-	-	-	-	-	36	48	110	90	-
Angola	73	-	110	-	-	13	24	22	32	24
Southern Rhodesia	2	5	37	-	-	8/	2	6	-	-
Union of South Africa	-	12	80	80	85	2	3	28	28	30
Australia	53	5	5	9	10	11	1	2	3	4
Total 4/	6,176	5,710	7,619	7,618	6,776	2,840	2,483	3,060	3,524	2,850
World total 4/	81,142	60,325	84,650	81,870	80,200	31,689	25,687	35,750	35,730	36,770

1/ Years refer to crop years, beginning August 1, in which major portion of crop was harvested. 2/ Production in bales of 478 pounds net prior to 1946 and 480 pounds thereafter. 3/ Preliminary. 4/ Includes estimates for minor-producing countries not listed above and allowances for other figures not available. 5/ Figures for 1943 to date are not comparable with prewar figures because of boundary changes. 6/ Pakistan included with India. 7/ South Korea only, after 1941. 8/ Less than 500. 9/ Exports.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics, reports of United States Foreign Service officers and results of office research.

Such information as is available from the Soviet Union and China indicate production is slightly higher than in 1952-53 due to improved weather in the Soviet Union and strong Government efforts in China to expand cotton cultivation to reduce the requirements for imported cotton.

The current estimate of world production is about 3.5 million bales more than the estimated world consumption in 1952-53. The level of cotton consumption is not expected to change significantly in 1953-54.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.

UPWARD TREND IN U. S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS CONTINUES IN NOVEMBER, 1953 1/

Exports of United States agricultural products during November 1953 continued the upward trend which began in July. November exports of $280 million exceeded the October total of $242 million by 16 percent, were 3 percent higher than in November 1952, and were highest in value since December 1952. The steady upward trend in farm exports during the first 5 months of the current fiscal year has brought an increase of 3 percent in the farm export value for the period to $1,153 million as compared with $1,116 million in the same months of the preceding year.

The nation's exports of all commodities, agricultural as well as nonagricultural, amounted in value to $1,232 million during November compared with $1,181 million in the same month of 1952. This brought the value of the outward movement of all commodities for the July-November period of the current fiscal year to a total of $6,207 million compared with $5,693 million in the same period of 1952, representing an increase of 9 percent. Farm products accounted for 23 percent of November 1953 exports, the same as in November a year earlier, and 19 percent of the July-November 1953 total compared with 20 percent in the same period of 1952.

On a dollar-value basis, cotton continued as the nation's most important agricultural export, with sales abroad valued at $44 million. While exports at this level were 11 percent higher than the $40 million worth sent abroad in October, they were 34 percent under the $67 million worth exported in November 1952. Leaf tobacco continued to hold second position with exports valued at $36 million, unchanged from October. In November 1952, $28 million worth of tobacco was exported. Third place in November 1953 went to wheat and wheat flour, the combined exports of which were valued at $35 million compared with $29 million in October 1953 and $43 million in November 1952.

1/ More complete details than presented in this summary will be published in U.S. Foreign Trade in Agricultural Products for November 1953, available on request from Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

UNITED STATES: Summary of exports, domestic, of selected agricultural products, during November 1952 and 1953

Commodity exported	Unit	November			
		Quantity		Value	
		1952	1953	1952	1953
		Thousands	Thousands	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars
ANIMAL PRODUCTS:					
Butter	Lb.	18	30	16	26
Cheese	Lb.	269	2,491	140	957
Milk, condensed	Lb.	1,071	128	271	33
Milk, evaporated	Lb.	7,740	14,427	1,303	2,145
Milk, whole, dried	Lb.	3,695	3,004	1,980	1,538
Nonfat dry milk solids	Lb.	4,196	15,357	748	2,152
Eggs, dried	Lb.	252	379	126	298
Beef and veal, total 1/	Lb.	1,153	13,685	325	4,785
Pork, total 1/	Lb.	7,386	4,419	1,923	1,639
Horse meat	Lb.	1,094	1,508	184	224
Lard	Lb.	46,638	32,857	4,987	5,409
Tallow, edible and inedible	Lb.	53,523	71,001	3,685	4,283
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Cotton, unmfd., excl. linters (480 lb.)	Bale	352	254	66,853	44,102
Apples, fresh	Lb.	6,055	5,920	580	617
Grapefruit, fresh	Lb.	10,680	14,188	419	494
Oranges and tangerines	Lb.	27,714	32,657	1,307	1,483
Pears, fresh	Lb.	2,094	7,275	187	521
Prunes, dried	Lb.	6,200	13,213	1,072	1,959
Raisins and currants	Lb.	21,850	8,959	2,272	1,155
Fruits, canned	Lb.	10,589	11,385	1,737	1,838
Fruits juices	Gal.	1,873	2,193	1,422	1,809
Barley, grain (48 lb.)	Bu.	3,522	1,754	6,425	2,503
Barley, malt (34 lb.)	Bu.	308	421	814	1,015
Corn, grain (56 lb.)	Bu.	15,993	13,096	29,328	21,918
Grain sorghums (56 lb.)	Bu.	1,080	375	2,268	585
Rice, milled, excludes paddy	Lb.	141,357	237,200	13,614	21,358
Wheat, grain (60 lb.)	Bu.	16,146	12,112	35,191	28,779
Flour, wholly of U.S. wheat (100 lb.)	Bag	1,480	1,332	6,605	6,079
Flour, not wholly of U.S.wheat (100 lb.)	Bag	238	97	1,209	624
Hops	Lb.	2,541	2,588	1,602	1,511
Peanuts, shelled	Lb.	144	21,411	67	1,952
Soybeans, except canned (60 lb.)	Bu.	6,149	10,110	18,900	28,461
Soybean oil, crude, refined, etc.	Lb.	22,827	4,116	2,930	595
Soybean flour, edible	Lb.	693	480	46	37
Seeds, field and garden	Lb.	1,018	8,859	492	844
Tobacco, flue-cured	Lb.	36,744	47,242	23,552	32,684
Tobacco, leaf, other	Lb.	6,770	4,930	4,238	3,350
Beans, dried	Lb.	53,183	15,760	3,508	1,530
Peas, dried	Lb.	6,420	6,842	616	518
Potatoes, white	Lb.	12,161	7,414	398	151
Vegetables, canned	Lb.	8,191	10,195	1,146	1,460
Total above				244,486	233,421
Food exported for relief, etc.				5,104	7,639
Other agricultural products				23,298	38,920
Total agricultural				272,888	279,980
Total all commodities				1,181,005	1,232,186

1/ Product weight.

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

UNITED STATES: Summary of imports for consumption of selected agricultural products during November 1952 and 1953

Commodity imported	Unit	November			
		Quantity		Value	
		1952	1953	1952	1953
SUPPLEMENTARY				1,000	1,000
ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS:		Thousands	Thousands	dollars	dollars
Cattle, dutiable	No.	58	3	4,941	525
Cattle, free (for breeding)	No.	0	2	0	589
Casein and lactarene	Lb.	6,187	3,040	892	502
Cheese	Lb.	5,734	7,186	2,908	3,711
Hides and skins	Lb.	7,820	8,766	3,296	3,839
Beef canned, incl. corned	Lb.	4,360	2,757	1,577	949
Wool, unmfd., excludes free in bond	Lb.	15,841	12,815	10,099	10,824
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Cotton, unmfd., excl. linters (480 lb.)	Bale	12	9	2,342	1,464
Jute and jute butts, unmfd. (2,240 lb.)	Ton	4	5	637	1,360
Olives in brine	Gal.	741	663	1,194	1,058
Pineapples, prep. or preserved	Lb.	4,056	7,232	498	620
Barley malt	Lb.	3,451	4,480	210	261
Almonds, shelled	Lb.	918	899	330	334
Brazil or cream nuts, not shelled	Lb.	1,571	72	330	9
Cashew nuts	Lb.	3,141	4,550	1,556	1,818
Coconut meat, shredded, etc.	Lb.	9,148	8,663	1,020	1,153
Castor beans	Lb.	10,640	8,583	819	432
Copra	Lb.	50,435	50,741	3,219	4,360
Coconut oil	Lb.	16,162	17,550	1,345	2,436
Palm oil	Lb.	2,351	703	210	53
Tung oil	Lb.	2,494	7,359	847	1,574
Sugar, excl. beet (2,000 lb.)	Ton	123	145	13,708	15,937
Molasses, unfit for human consumption	Gal.	22,039	20,599	1,746	2,359
Tobacco, cigarette leaf	Lb.	5,896	6,314	3,993	7,138
Tobacco, other leaf	Lb.	1,303	1,470	1,680	1,998
Potatoes, white, certified seed	Lb.	17,346	12,337	777	214
Potatoes, white (table stock)	Lb.	14,161	21,250	577	249
Tomatoes, natural state	Lb.	1,189	1,609	85	153
Other supplementary		---	---	64,929	68,665
Total supplementary				125,765	134,584
COMPLEMENTARY					
Silk, raw	Lb.	609	414	2,921	1,931
Wool, unmfd., free in bond	Lb.	14,764	11,584	6,620	6,084
Bananas	Bunch	3,493	3,938	3,993	5,242
Coffee (ex. into Puerto Rico)	Lb.	184,264	243,959	95,080	131,046
Cocoa or cacao beans	Lb.	29,730	17,958	8,653	5,849
Tea	Lb.	5,530	6,851	2,296	3,150
Spices (complementary)	Lb.	6,232	6,090	4,150	4,373
Sisal and henequen (2,240 lb.)	Ton	23	14	7,386	3,017
Rubber, crude	Lb.	109,259	111,424	27,077	23,177
Other complementary		---	---	6,335	6,422
Total complementary				164,511	190,291
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS				290,276	324,875
TOTAL ALL COMMODITIES				796,195	841,301

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

On a quantitative basis, the outstanding feature of the nation's agricultural exports during November, compared with those for the same month a year earlier, was the very large increase in exports of cheese, evaporated milk, nonfat dry milk solids, beef and veal, tallow, grapefruit, oranges, pears, prunes, rice, peanuts, soybeans, field and garden seeds, flue-cured tobacco, and canned vegetables. On the other hand, the month's exports of a number of farm products showed very large or substantial reductions compared with November 1952. This was particularly true of condensed milk, dried whole milk, pork, lard, cotton, raisins, barley, corn, grain sorghums, wheat, soybean oil, leaf tobacco other than flue-cured, dried beans, and white potatoes.

Agricultural imports during November showed substantial increases when compared both with October 1953 and with November 1952. November receipts from abroad were valued at $325 million, an increase of 19 percent compared with October and one of 12 percent compared with November 1952 when imports totaled $290 million. A large part of the increase was due to the larger intake of coffee, principal complementary, or noncompetitive, foreign agricultural product, whose imports were valued at $131 million in November 1953 in contrast with $95 million a year earlier and accounted for 40 percent of all United States agricultural imports in that month. Bananas and tea were other complementary items showing substantial increases in imports over November 1952. Crude rubber imports were higher in quantity but somewhat lower in value. Reductions occurred for carpet wool, cocoa or cacao beans, and sisal and henequen.

Special Note: Effective with the July 1953 statistics, the values of $100 - $499 export shipments were estimated from a 10 percent sample of such shipments. The Bureau of the Census has explained this innovation in its September issue of Foreign Trade Statistics Notes copies of which are available from the Bureau of the Census.

Important supplementary commodities (those which compete with products of United States agriculture) recording substantial value increases in November 1953 compared with a year earlier were sugar, tobacco, copra, coconut oil, and cheese, with small to substantial increases in quantity. At the same time, however, very large reductions took place in imports of dutiable cattle, canned and corned beef, Brazil nuts, castor beans, palm oil, and certified seed potatoes. Although less apparel wool was imported, imports registered a higher value.

(Continued on next page)

The nation's total imports of all merchandise, agricultural as well as nonagricultural, were valued at $841 million during November compared with $822 million in October 1953 and $796 million in November 1952. Agricultural commodities constituted 39 percent of the total during the month under review compared with 33 percent in October and 36 percent in November 1952. For the July-November period of 1953, agricultural imports were valued at $1,608 million, a reduction of 5 percent as compared with the $1,689 million worth imported in the corresponding period of 1952.

On balance, United States imports of agricultural products during November exceeded the value of the nation's agricultural exports by $45 million. In October, the excess in favor of imports amounted to $30 million but in November 1952 it amounted to only $17 million. During the entire first 5 months of the current fiscal year, imports of agricultural products exceeded exports in value by $456 million compared with $573 million in the same period of the preceding year.--By Leo J. Schaben.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL MARKET NOTES

All descriptions of wool sold at lower prices during the first week of the second half of the Australian wool selling season, which opened at Sydney January 14. The average decreases were relatively minor in the case of superfine and medium merinos, but averaged about 5 percent on strong merinos and comebacks and 7 percent on crossbreds. French buying is reported to have been heavier than that of any other importing country during the week, and Russian buying was much less consistent than during the last week before Christmas.

Receipts of new-clip wool into store during December were more than 20 percent smaller than during December 1952, pulling cumulative receipts since July 1st down to 0.4 percent lower than during the last 6 months of 1952 compared with a cumulative excess of 1.6 percent through the end of November. The downward revision of the 1953-54 clip estimate announced earlier appears to have been warranted.

Sales during the first half of the auction season were about 6 percent larger than a year earlier, leaving almost 9 percent less wool unsold in store at the end of December. Prices during the first half of the season averaged about 7 percent higher for greasy wool and 12 percent higher for scoured wool than during the comparable portion of the 1952-53 season.

URUGUAY REVISES EXCHANGE RATE FOR WOOL TOPS

The Government of Uruguay has announced that effective January 22 the exchange rate on wool tops was lowered to 1.967 pesos to the dollar. This compares with the old rate of 2.06 and a rate of 1.519 on greasy and washed wool. This means that the exporters of tops do not receive as much local currency for their dollar as previously thus reducing the disparity between rates for exports of raw wool and wool tops.

It has also been recently announced that the 5 percent retention on exchange earnings, which allows exporters to convert 5 percent of their earnings at the free rate of 3.05 instead of the official rate of 1.519, was extended until March 31, 1954.

LONDON WOOL AUCTION PRICES DOWN

Wool prices at the opening week of the first series 1954 London Wool Auction were down somewhat from the closing week of the previous sale which closed December 11, 1953. This slightly lower level reflects the easing in prices in primary markets since the opening of the last half of the current wool season. Fleece wool, 64's - 70's averaging $1.83 per clean pound compared with $1.87 in mid-December 1953 and $1.82 a year ago. Fine crossbreds 56's averaged $1.05, $1.05 and $.93 and crossbreds 46's averaged $.82, $.89 and $.75 respectively for the dates given. Thus the downward trend since the beginning of the season in September continued into the last half.

There are too many unknown factors in the market to be able to predict the future course of prices. It should be pointed out, though that offering will be heavier as the season progresses and the market will have greater supplies to absorb.

It is also significant to note that wool prices are currently higher than a year ago, whereas prices for most other raw materials are lower than a year earlier, recalling previous trends in commodity price fluctuation.

CANADIAN HOG NUMBERS BELOW A YEAR AGO

The number of hogs on farms in Canada 1/ as of December 1, 1953 totaled 4,721,000 head, about 10 percent less than the 5,237,000 as of December 1, 1952 according to recent estimates released by the Dominion's Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.

This decrease occurred in all provinces; however, one province, Alberta, showed only a slight decline. The December inventory averaged 9 percent lower in Western Canada and 10.5 percent lower in Eastern Canada as compared to a year earlier. The lower numbers on December 1 reflect a 1953 pig crop in Canada that fell 16 percent below that of the previous year, largely as the result of an appreciable decrease in the spring pig crop. The fall pig crop was only 6 percent lower in 1953 than in 1952, but the spring crop fell 24 percent below a year earlier. The smaller spring pig crop resulted from depressed market conditions in Canada at breeding time.

(Continued on next page)

1/ Includes Newfoundland.

CANADA: 1954 spring pig crop forecast, with comparisons

Year	Spring (December-May)		Fall (June-November)		Annual Pig crop
	Sows farrowed	Pig crop	Sows farrowed	Pig crop	
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
Average 1936-40	564	1/ 3,690	448	3,537	7,227
" 1941-45	800	5,404	689	5,346	10,750
" 1946-50	565	4,117	499	4,020	8,137
1951	521	4,082	529	4,193	8,275
1952	639	4,762	504	3,919	8,681
1953	466	3,628	461	3,700	7,328
1954 2/	633	3/ 4,934	-	-	-

1/ 4-year average only.
2/ Preliminary.
3/ Based on an estimated increase of 36 percent.

Based on intentions reported by farmers on December 1 it is estimated that 632,500 sows will farrow during the spring of 1954 (December, 1953-May, 1954), 36 percent more than the comparable period of last year. This forecast indicates increases of 37 and 34 percent, respectively, for Eastern and Western Canada. On the average about 50 percent of the annual pig crop is farrowed in the months December through May. The prospective increase in the Canadian pig crop is primarily due to the strong American hog market coupled with the exclusion from the Canadian market of United States pork, due to the existence of vesicular exanthema in certain states.

U.S. IMPORTS OF WOOL TOPS DOWN

United States imports of wool tops were down significantly in 1953 reflecting decreased activity in the wool textile industry in this country and the affectiveness of the imposition of countervailing duties against tops originating in Uruguay. Top imports were down from 23 million pounds to 5 million pounds which is only slightly above the 1950 level. The bulk of the decrease was in imports from Uruguay which dropped from 17 million pounds in 1952 to 4.7 million pounds in 1953. There was no evidence of transshipment of Uruguayan tops from other countries as imports from nearly all countries decreased.

UNITED STATES: Imports of tops, calendar year 1950 through 1953

Country of Origin	1950	1951	1952	1953 1/
	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds
Canada	9.1	28.1	68.5	0
Belgium	11.6	586.2	542.6	183.7
France	58.3	1,398.0	1,557.4	14.4
Germany	1.2	1.7	1,133.2	149.7
Italy	213.0	74.0	131.3	56.7
Netherlands	164.2	0	74.4	0
Portugal	4.0	48.4	0	0
Switzerland	39.7	0	0	55.1
United Kingdom	634.8	194.8	557.4	13.8
China	12.9	1.5	0	0
Hong Kong	6.0	44.6	29.8	0
Japan	32.8	5.2	0	0
Argentina	1,590.3	3,791.4	1,310.9	131.3
Peru	0.2	0.5	6.1	10.6
Uruguay	1,076.2	3,771.8	17,140.2	4,775.1
Union of So. Africa	7.2	200.9	262.5	0
Australia	320.6	251.8	276.0	0
New Zealand	22.5	0	31.2	0
Total	4,204.6	10,398.9	23,121.5	5,390.4

1/ 11 months.

U.S. RICE EXPORTS

Exports of rice from the United States for the first 4 months (August-November) of the current marketing year fell short by approximately 120,000 bags of equaling the record set for the same period last year. This reduction for the initial 4 months of the season has no particular significance in terms of total exports for the season. So far there is ample evidence that rice exports for 1953-54 will remain at a relatively high level.

The distribution of these exports between various destinations is indicative of a rather favorable movement of United States export availabilities. Exports to Western Henisphere countries show an increase of 573,000 bags, with the principal increases going to Cuba and Venezuela.

RICE: United States exports to specified countries, November 1953, with comparisons 1/

Continent and country	August-July		August-November		November	
	1951-52	1952-53	1952	1953 2/	1952	1953 2/
	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
Western Hemisphere:						
Canada	443	601	239	189	110	60
British Honduras	22	3	2	3	0	3
British W. Indies	54	81	72	3	1	3/
Cuba	5,118	4,876	1,930	2,547	661	692
Netherlands Antilles	25	41	16	16	4	4
Venezuela	196	86	37	99	0	0
Other countries	38	15	4	16	1	4
Total	5,896	5,703	2,300	2,873	777	763
Europe:						
Belgium & Luxembourg	57	52	13	121	1	27
Greece	209	3/	3/	5	3/	5
Iceland	3	8	3	3/	3	0
Switzerland	21	39	3/	41	3/	15
Other countries	1	1	1	47	3/	36
Total	291	100	17	214	4	83
Asia:						
Saudi Arabia	91	139	37	53	14	5
Ceylon	741	647	647	0	50	0
Indonesia	1,799	1,100	202	0	201	0
Philippines	71	3/	0	3/	0	3/
Korea	2,821	4/ 4,631	386	494	136	130
Hong Kong	0	179	179	0	0	0
Japan	5,430	4,420	1,581	1,824	416	1,204
Ryukyu Islands	0	616	211	0	211	0
Other countries	9	4	1	4	1	3
Total	10,962	11,736	3,244	2,375	1,029	1,342
Total Oceania	13	19	11	9	7	1
Liberia	73	22	22	3/	0	3/
Other Africa	4	3/	1	1	3/	
Total World	17,239	17,580	5,595	5,472	1,817	2,189

1/ Milled rice, including brown, broken, screenings and brewers' rice and rough rice converted to terms of milled at 65 percent. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 500 bags. 4/ Adjusted to include all programs of the Department of Defense and the Foreign Operations Administration.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

All indications point to a larger export to Cuba than that of last year. The latest information, based on reported arrivals in Cuba, shows an import of 3,397,044 bags of rice from the United States from August 1, 1953, to January 21, 1954. This in comparison with 2,338,121 bags reported for the same period last year represents approximately a 45-percent increase.

In the case of Venezuela, it is reported that the domestic crop will not be over 40,000 metric tons of rough rice. If this proves true, imports of about 220,000 bags of milled rice into that country are to be expected. Up to end of October, Venezuelan purchases of United States rice probably had reached a total of over 130,000 bags, of which 99,000 had been shipped on November 30.

The European pattern of distribution has shown considerably more strength than for some years. A total of 214,000 bags were exported to European countries through November, compared with only 17,000 a year ago and with only 52,000 for the rice marketing year of 1952-53. The principal increase went to Belgium and Switzerland. Some of the countries that have been missing from the lists of United States export destinations for some time, such as Italy, Trieste, and Greece, received small amounts.

For Asian destinations, while the totals were somewhat under last year, the difference was perhaps due in part to the discontinuance of United States allocations last October. The abolition of such controls has permitted contract orders to be milled out over a greater span of time. Increases to countries in the Asian group include Saudi Arabia, Korea, and Japan. Ceylon, Hong Kong and Indonesia were not importers of United States rice from August through November.

JAPAN'S REDUCED RICE CROP RAISES IMPORT REQUIREMENTS

The 1953 rice crop in Japan is now estimated at 8,239,000 metric tons in terms of brown rice and represents about a 17-percent drop from that of 1952. A reduction in domestic supplies of the size indicated has resulted in a number of adjustments in both domestic and import programs by the Japanese Government in order to provide for a requirement for consumer rationing of about 4,883,000 tons (brown rice equivalent) for the year.

The Japanese Government, in order to maximize collections from the 1953 rice crop and to reduce "black market" activities, raised the base price paid to farmers to 8,200 yen per koku of brown rice. The new base price is roughly equivalent to 6.9 cents a pound. Additional bonuses for early delivery and over-quota delivery in many cases will bring the average price received by farmers to approximately 8.5 cents per pound. In addition to facilitating Government collections, the increase in prices to farmers is intended to equalize the effect of the shortened rice crop on the agricultural economy.

Some of the increases in farm prices have been passed along in part to the consumer by raising the consumer price on January 1, 1954, by about 12½ percent. The new price of 76.5 yen per kilogram of polished rice is equivalent to about 9.3 cents a pound. The foregoing prices are for domestic grown and imported short-grain rice, including that coming from the United States. Consumer prices of imports other than short-grain varieties are equivalent to about 8.2 cents per pound.

The collections of the 1953 crop have been coming in much better than was anticipated last October. It seems likely now that 3 million tons may be collected out of the target of 3.15 million tons. Whether or not the amount collected, plus imports, will be sufficient to maintain the official daily ration of 196 grams (7 ounces) per capita remains to be seen. The average consumption of rice, including purchases from the black market and amounts consumed by producers, is about 300 grams (10.7 ounces) daily as compared with 380 grams (13.6 ounces) prewar. This decline of some 20 percent in rice consumption has been offset by increases in the use of wheat and barley. For the coming months of 1954, the monthly requirement from Government stocks for the ration will average 430,000 tons in terms of brown rice.

JAPAN: Average per capita consumption
of rice in cities and rural villages,
by month, 1952, and January-September 1953

Month	1952		1953	
	Urban	Rural villages	Urban	Rural villages
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
January	12.9	35.0	14.1	31.1
February	14.1	28.9	16.5	31.4
March	15.4	30.3	17.2	30.0
April	15.2	28.1	16.3	28.9
May	15.8	29.4	17.7	29.2
June	15.5	30.8	17.2	30.5
July	15.6	28.3	17.2	28.1
August	15.8	27.1	16.7	-
September	15.5	27.4	16.6	-
October	16.0	29.8	-	-
November	17.1	30.0	-	-
December	24.9	36.4	-	-

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Japan.

The shortage of rice from the 1953 crop is being met by increasing imports of rice, wheat and barley, by limiting the industrial use of rice, by drawing on stocks, and by using a new product in the form of an extender of rice supplies known as synthetic rice. This product, composed of potato starch, wheat flour, and rice flour is intended to be mixed by the consumer with natural rice in proportions between 10 and 15 percent. The apparent intent of the Japanese Government is to use synthetic rice to cut down on "black market" rice, and at same time to provide a more acceptable addition to the diet than is provided by the high proportions of wheat and barley now in use. The present price of artificial rice is about 12 cents a pound as compared with about 20 cents for "black market" rice.

During 1953 Japan imported more rice than in any year since World War II. Imports totaled 1,057,000 metric tons, coming from 18 different areas, of which Thailand supplied 418,000; Burma 189,000, and the United States 160,000 metric tons. The low figure for the United States was occasioned by the fact that under the system of export controls in operation in the United States until late October, larger portions of rice exports had to be diverted to Korea. Without such export controls, the imports from the United States would have been 300,000 tons, or more.

The landed costs of rice imported into Japan during 1953 followed general trends in world market prices. For the period October through December the average prices per metric ton reported C. and F. Japan were: United States, $199-204; Burma, private trade, $190; Thailand, Government contracts $170, and private trade $192; Italy $203; Indochina $194, and Ceylon $179. The only price paid that was materially higher than that from the United States was in the case of imports from Taiwan, but as the basis for these transactions is one of a barter arrangement, the higher prices have no significance.

The Japanese Government announced some time ago that it planned to import 1,600,000 metric tons of rice during the rice year (November 1953-October 1954). This compares with 1,001,000 tons imported for the previous period. The Japanese budget year runs from April to March, so that of the target figure of 1,600,000 tons, about 1,450,000 tons will be purchased before March 31 of this year. Of this amount over 300,000 tons have contracted for in the United States before January 1, and it is likely that further imports may be made as the new-budget year funds become available. To the extent that short-grain varieties are available, there is no question but what further substantial imports will occur from the United States. The question is not so much one of price, but of preference. Japan is not currently able to obtain more than about one-fourth of her import needs in the desired varieties. For the medium-grain, and particularly long-grain varieties, the price differential comes into play and for the balance of the present Japanese rice year, imports of these varieties may be expected to be maximized in Burma and Thailand. However, it must be noted that the range of competitive prices still is not so great as to preclude further sales from the United States.

JAPAN: Imports of milled rice, by quarter and source 1953, and total 1952 (in 1,000 metric tons)

Source	Total 1952	January-March	April-June	July-September	October-December	Total 1953
United States	273	54	59	5	42	160
Thailand	311	34	171	112	101	418
Burma	144	42	84	50	13	189
Taiwan	51	13	0	0	40	53
Italy	109	0	19	8	0	27
Ceylon	12	0	0	0	0	0
Spain	47	0	29	11	0	40
Mexico	2	0	0	0	0	0
Iran	5	19	2	0	0	21
Nicaragua	1	0	1	1	0	2
Uruguay	7	0	0	0	0	0
Portugal	2	1	0	0	9	10
Costa Rica	0	0	2	0	0	2
Colombia	0	0	2	0	0	2
Pakistan	7	36	10	0	0	46
Argentina	0	0	2	1	0	3
Brazil	0	3	0	0	0	3
Turkey	0	0	0	0	5	5
Indochina	0	0	0	20	29	49
Ecuador	26	0	0	0	17	17
Peru	0	0	0	0	10	10
Total	997	202	381	208	266	1,057

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Japan.

The Japanese Government will have to consider setting imports for the 1954-55 rice year (November 1954-October 1955) at a higher level than the 1 million-ton import which would be necessary with a normal domestic crop. This is due in part to the fact that stocks as of next October may be 200,000 tons lower than for the same date in 1953. Short-grain rice will continue to be in as good demand as in 1953-54. The differential in the price of rationed domestic rice and imported rice of over 1 cent a pound is a good measure of the preference for short-grain rice.

SPAIN'S COTTON SUPPLIES IMPROVE

During November the cotton textile industry of Spain operated at the lowest level since August, consuming only about 29,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross). The number of inactive spindles increased sharply from October, a development which rarely occurs during the fall months. Raw cotton supplies in November were very tight and reached a low level sufficient only to cover 3 weeks' requirements by the latter half of the month.

Imports of cotton in November totaled only 18,000 bales. An additional 45,000 to 50,000 bales were scheduled to arrive during December from the United States and Brazil. Latest reports indicate that the National Cotton Center has now approximately 1-1/2 months' supply of cotton, with an additional 2 months' supply on order. On November 13 the Center used the balance of a recent Export-Import Bank loan for the purchase of 27,700 bales of American cotton. On December 15 the Center purchased an additional 6,843 bales of Brazilian cotton.

The Spanish Under Secretary of Commerce, while in Barcelona December 7 and 8, indicated that the Government had no intention of changing the present prices of cotton for sale to the textile mills.

INDIAN CLOTH EXPORTS

The Indian Government's measures for relief of the cotton textile industry have helped push export of mill cloth during calendar 1953 to 701.3 million yards, an increase of 107.5 million yards over 1952. This improvement in cloth exports is expected to be reflected in continuation of a high level of cotton consumption in 1954 with possible improvement in import demand in view of the currently low level of cotton stocks.

With 1952 figures in parentheses, exports of medium cloth in 1953 were 273.9 million yards (138.7), followed by coarse cloth 260.7 million yards (168.1), fine cloth 152.5 million yards (264.4), and superfine 14.2 million yards (22.6).

Total mill cloth exported was about 300 million yards short of the 1,000-million-yard export figure India accepted at the Buxton Textile Conference. According to a report from New York, however, India was the world's second largest exporter of piece goods in 1953.

The year also marked a reversal of a previous downward trend. Especially pleasing to Indian officials was the performance in medium cloth, the line which is regarded as of first importance to India's future as a textile exporter. The decline in fine and superfine cloth was expected.

The Indian press expected mill production in 1953 to reach 5,000 million yards, apparently a record performance. Domestic consumption of cloth, on the other hand, has still not caught up with prewar averages. Experts consider present average consumption of cloth to be about 14 yards a head, about 2 yards below estimated 1939 figures.

U. K. COTTON IMPORTS AND CONSUMPTION RISING

During the first 4 months of the current cotton year (August-November 1953) the United Kingdom imported 489,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) of cotton, according to information received from the American Consulate at Manchester, England. This total includes about 113,000 bales from the United States. During the same months of 1952 imports were 337,000 bales, including 107,000 from the United States.

Mill consumption of cotton in the United Kingdom during the first 3 months, August-October, was estimated at 435,000 bales, compared with 344,000 bales for the same months a year ago. Mill activities continued upward in November and yarn output was reported to be slightly in excess of October but a definite figure is not yet available.

Reexports of cotton amounted to 1,139 bales in November, making a total of 3,914 bales for the 4 months August through November 1953. United Kingdom stocks of cotton of all kinds amounted to 952,000 bales at the end of October 1953, a reduction of 64,000 bales from the figure reported for August 1.

INDIAN COTTON IMPORT LICENSING POLICY

A notification issued by the Joint Chief Controller of Imports, Bombay, on December 22, 1953, announced the Indian import licensing policy for raw cotton for the 6-month period, January-June 1954. According to this notification, licenses for the import of raw cotton from nondollar areas of staple length not less than 1-1/16 inch will be issued to importers and mills against evidence of purchase from overseas suppliers. Such licenses will be valid for a period of 12 months from the date of issue. While importers will be free to sell the imported cotton to mills, they will be required to obtain the prior permission of the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, with respect to sales to nonmill buyers. Details of all sales, whether to mills or others, should be given to the Textile Commissioner, Bombay.

According to the notification, applications for the import of raw cotton from the dollar area will not be entertained by the Joint Chief Controller of Imports for the present.

Another notification by the Joint Chief Controller extended automatically all outstanding licenses for American cotton through June 30, 1954. These licenses were originally issued for importation from the 1951-52 United States crop but were subsequently extended periodically and until the end of December 1953. The outstanding licenses are currently estimated to cover slightly over 100,000 bales (American size).

NETHERLANDS COTTON IMPORTS IMPROVE

The gradual recovery in the cotton trade and textile production in the Netherlands continued through the first quarter of the 1953-54 cotton year. Prices paid for raw cotton remained at approximately the same levels as in the previous quarter with the exception of Brazilian cotton, which has dropped considerably. Consumption of cotton by mills during the first 16 weeks of the cotton year was 16 percent higher than in the comparable period last year, reflecting the better market for cotton textiles.

Imports during the quarter were twice as large as a year ago due to sharply increased imports of Mexican and Argentine cotton and the purchases of some Brazilian cotton. The purchases of Brazilian cotton, made because of its reduced price, were the first in a number of years.

Representatives of the Dutch cotton trade and textile industry expect that presently satisfactory markets will remain stable in the first half of 1954, with slight imporvement in trade in some yarns. The unstable situation in Indonesia keeps shipments of cheap cloth to that country at relatively low levels. To offset this highly unreliable market the Netherlands is constantly endeavoring to find new markets for its textile products.

Dutch yarn wholesalers believe that some increase in purchases of United States cotton in mid-1954 is inevitable in view of current steady demand for high-quality yarn and the constant decline in mill stocks of United States grades. Cotton brokers, however, are anxious to profit from current low prices for Latin American cotton and are trying to stretch good grades of these growths as far as possible.

COTTON IN BRAZILIAN-BOLIVIAN TRADE AGREEMENT

Brazilian cotton is included in a new trade agreement signed by that country with Bolivia on December 24, 1953, according to the Rio de Janeiro press. The agreement includes $900,000 worth of cotton, $300,000 of cotton yarn and $100,000 worth of cotton textiles. This is about one-third of the value of all Brazilian commodities covered. The amount of raw cotton involved is about 5,000 bales which, together with quantities of United States cotton to be imported with funds ($800,000) allocated by the Foreign Operations Administration, will meet the entire needs of the Bolivian cotton spinning industry in 1954.